



Cultural Action Plan  
Steering Committee Minutes  
April 2, 2008

The Salisbury City Council adopted a Resolution of Intent September 4, 2007, to adopt a goal to investigate and create a Cultural Action Plan. On April 2, 2008, a Council-appointed steering committee met in the Council Chamber at 217 South Main Street to further this goal.

**In attendance were:** Mayor Susan Kluttz, Councilman Mark Lewis, Mary Berryman Agard, Joe Morris (Staff Liaison), Diana Moghrabi (Secretary), Connie Baker, Phillip Burgess, Michele d'Hemecourt, David Fish, Sarah Hall, Joanne Harrison, Elaney Hasselman, Ruth Chaparro Kennerly, Katie Lipscomb, James Meacham, Foster Owen, Barbara Perry, Eleanor Qadirah, Lynn Raker, Mark Ritchie, Marietta Smith, and Christine Shuster.

Councilman Mark Lewis welcomed the committee and consultant Mary Berryman Agard who provided a document titled **SALISBURY CULTURAL ACTION PLAN STATUS REPORT**. Mrs. Agard also provided surveys for adults and teens that are helpful tools for the cultural summit. Copies have been provided for Parks and Recreation and the Public Library. These were then emailed to the whole committee.

### THE CULTURAL SUMMIT

The event will be held at the Trolley Barn April 19, 2008, from 2 p.m. with the Amadeus Youth Chorus performing *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in concert, at 2:45 Mary Berryman Agard will make her presentation regarding the Cultural Action Plan, and at 4 p.m. the talent show will begin with the 12 finalists from the four categories of music, dance, children and other competing. Six acts will perform and there will be a break, and then six more perform and a break. The top three will then perform one last time each for the grand prizes.

The prizes are \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place. Children's category includes \$100 first place prize, \$75 second place prize and \$50 third place prize. Children are also eligible for the grand prize.

David Fish reported that the production side of the event was going very well. The production committee will be holding meetings prior to the two Saturday events. Len Clark, Mark Zenow (Hootie and the Blowfish connection), and Charlotte radio personality Joey Popp have been invited to judge the main event. (We need a female judge!) Chris Zink is providing stage lights at a charge of \$200; Jimm Mosher will be running sound at a charge of \$200.

The consultant asked how many applicants we currently have for *Salisbury's Got Talent* and what is the committee's goal for number of applicants? The number of applicants received for *Salisbury's Got Talent* was low. (The final number of applicants was 27; *Salisbury Idol* last year was about 60.) Mary asked the committee to talk to people they know who should apply; the members of the committee can encourage applicants and talk it up more to the public. Mark Lewis offered scholarships. A push is needed for the publicity as well as an extended deadline for *Salisbury's Got Talent* applications.

In spite of the fact that posters are up all over town and the *Salisbury Post* has published information about the Cultural Summit on several occasions, local organizations do not seem to know exactly what is going on and how they fit into it. The **importance** of the public input portion of the cultural summit is driven by discussions with the public held by members of this committee. The discussion aspect of the

summit may need a political spin on it. This dialogue deals with future funding, City goals, and City initiatives. This approach may make it more press worthy.

Mary Berryman Agard hopes that this community will provide 90-100 people for the discussion and her presentation at 2:45 on April 19. If you are associated with public schools, one of the local foundations, one of the local arts groups, local media, or historic preservation, you will want your board members at this discussion. These are important decisions that affect our children.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- The secretary will send 150 event invitations to local boards. Ticketed seating (200) will be open to all who RSVP.
- Staff will invite the Police Explorers to act as volunteers. (Or any other clubs that may not traditionally attend.)
- Tables will be placed to display surveys, as well as, brochures for artists and arts groups.
- T-shirts will be sold.
- Connie Baker will take pictures of the contestants April 12.
- Elaney Hasselman will record the April 19 program. She also has the tickets and programs ready.
- Joe Morris will secure a temporary sign permit (Cheerwine provided blank banners) and the Art Club at Salisbury High School will print the signs.
- Joe spoke to Melanie Thompson (PD) about the Liberty Street closing.
- The St. Thomas Players are loaning black curtains for the stage and backstage area. The City Streets Division will help hang the curtains.
- There will be an information and hospitality desk. Joe Morris took responsibility for hospitality. He will supply lunch for the preliminaries. Staff will supply a token gift (coffee mug with snacks) for the judges. Ice is available at the Trolley Barn for Cheerwine. Food vendors will be on Liberty Street.
- The Production Committee will have a meeting Monday at noon.

**The meeting adjourned at 1:30. No future full committee meeting were set at this time.**

Respectfully,

Diana Moghrabi